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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : KLANN
Serial No : 10/662,705
Confirm. No. : 1026
Filed : September 15, 2003
For : TOOL FOR FLANGING...
Art Unit : 3723
Examiner :
Dated : December 17, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant requests that the Examiner consider references which have come to Applicant's attention based on a corresponding German Application proceedings.

- DE 32 30 444 C2 discloses a flanging press for metal tubes, in which two clamping blocks, which are used to clamp a metal tube 36 to be flanged, are provided. The embodiment of the tube insertion grooves 34/1 and 35/1 is to be taken from drawing figure 7 and the description pertaining thereto is to be taken from page 17. It can be seen from drawing figure 7 that these tube insertion grooves 34/1 and 35/1 have a greater width than the diameter of the tube 36 in the area of the separating plane of the two clamping blocks 17 and 18. This means that, when the two clamping blocks 17 and 18 are pressed together, the tube 36 is deformed radially outwards in the area of the separating plane. Just such a deformation is, however, unacceptable, since this occurs in the area of the flanged head to be made. As a result, there

is the risk that a "cap screw," as same is used, e.g., for fastening the brake line with its flanged head to a brake cylinder, can no longer be pushed over this deformed area of the brake line with little clearance. Moreover, as was already described in the specification introduction of the application documents on DE 32 30 444 C2, the clamping forces are not sufficient to be able to use this device for brake lines with a greater coating strength in such an embodiment of the tube insertion grooves 34/1 and 35/1. The drawbacks are described in detail in the US specification of the application starting from page 3 to page 4 in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7. I.e., the specification of the application already explains in detail that the subject of the publication DE 32 30 444 C2 are not suitable for brake lines with a higher coating strength. Further, this publication DE 32 30 444 C2 also states nothing about a special surface shape of the tube receiving grooves 34/1 and 35/1. However, just such special embodiments are claimed by the present invention. I.e., the subject of DE 32 30 444 C2 cannot suggest and also cannot anticipate the subject of the present invention with its total of four solutions (claim 1, claim 2, claim 4 and claim 8) to the detriment of novelty.

- DE 299 20 822 U1 and DE 299 20 821 U1 both disclose identically shaped clamping jaws 2 and 3 in relation to the clamping of a brake line. Thus, these two publications, in drawing figure 3 thereof with the pertinent description (e.g., from page 6 of DE 299 20 821 U1), show that the receiving grooves 17 and 18 are each divided into three sections. In this case, middle sections 19 and 20 are provided, whose radii of curvature are greater than the outer radius of the tube to be flanged. Flat running surfaces 21, 22 and 23, 24, respectively, are connected to this cylinder shape towards the separating plane 25 of the two clamping jaws 2,

3. The point of this embodiment shall be that the tube to be clamped is able to extend in the transverse direction. It is stated on page 3, second last paragraph, that the tube conforms to the wall of the half channels (17, 18). An especially good hold of the tube in the clamped position shall be achieved by means of this type of clamping of the tube. This means that the disclosure of the two publications DE 299 20 822 U1 and DE 299 20 821 U1 correspond roughly to the content of DE 32 30 444 C2. Thus, an unacceptable deformation of the brake like occurs during the clamping also in the subjects of the publications DE 299 20 822 U1 and DE 299 20 821 U1. The other drawbacks, which were already mentioned regarding DE 32 30 444 C2, are also present here. Also, nothing is stated in the publications DE 299 20 822 U1 and DE 299 20 821 U1 about a special shape of the surfaces of the receiving grooves 17 and 18. Thus, the subjects of these two publications may also conflict neither with the level of invention nor with the novelty of the present invention.

- DE 91 04 311.5 U1 discloses clamping jaws 1, 2, which should be used in a flanging machine according to the specification on page 7, paragraph 2. According to the last paragraph on page 5, the clamping jaws 1 and 2 form, in the assembled state, a centric bore 8 which in turn shall have a diameter that corresponds to the tube nominal width of the tube to be clamped. The inner wall 11 of this bore is equipped with peripheral grooves running in parallel which in turn have a shortened edge 13. This embodiment is apparent in Figure 3. Further, as is clear from page 6, paragraph 3, other grooves are arranged here, sloping at an angle $\alpha 1$. By means of these intersecting grooves 14 and 15 rhomboid pressure surfaces 17 shall be formed, which abut the outer wall of the tube. By means of this pressure surface 17, on the one hand, the

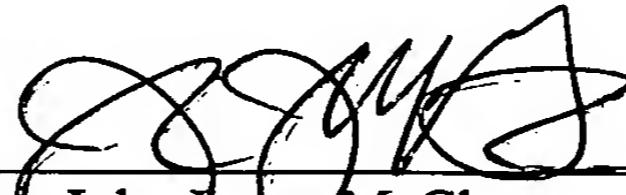
pressing pressure shall be increased and, at the same time, a notch effect shall be reduced. The design of the inner surface of the bore 8 causes the inner surface, as this is particularly clearly apparent from Figures 5 and 6, to have a type of toothed profile. This in turn has the result that the surface of a brake line is certainly damaged during the clamping because of the existing notch effect (which shall only be reduced, but not prevented). With a surface roughness according to claim 1 of the application or even with the recesses according to patent claims 2 or 4, which have a flat shape, the subject of DE 91 04 311.5 U1 thus also has nothing in common.

- U.S. 2,430,168 represents technological background to the present application.

Consideration of the references is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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JJM:tf

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Enclosed: PTO-1449 Form
copies of (5) References

DATED: December 17, 2003
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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, NO.: EV323629747US

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BY: Jeanne Fonte DATE: December 17, 2003



U.S. Department of Commerce Sheet 1 of 1
Patent and Trademark Office

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED
BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Atty Docket No.: 71113
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Group: 3723

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ex- aminer Initial	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub- class	Filing Date
	<u>2,430,168</u>	<u>Nov. 4, 1947</u>	<u>Graham</u>			<u>Nov. 24, 1943</u>

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ex- aminer Initial	Document No.	Date	Country	Class	Sub- class	Translation Yes/No
	<u>DE 32 30 444 C2</u>	<u>Feb. 16, 1984</u>	<u>Germany</u>			<u>No</u>
	<u>DE 299 20 821 U1</u>	<u>March 30, 2000</u>	<u>Germany</u>			<u>No</u>
	<u>DE 299 20 822 U1</u>	<u>April 6, 2000</u>	<u>Germany</u>			<u>No</u>
	<u>G 91 04 311.5</u>	<u>July 11, 1991</u>	<u>Germany</u>			<u>No</u>

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Ex- aminer Initial	Author	Date	Title	Textbook in	Translation Yes/No

Examiner

Date Considered